

How do I apply for a Recreational Trails Program grant?

The State Grant Application Packet for the FY 2004 grant cycle will be available for download on the Recreational Trails website no later than November 25, 2003. The Nevada Division of State Parks can send an application package to anyone who does not have download capability. Please notify the Recreational Trails Program Manager to request an application package.

Projects will be selected for funding in June 2004, or sooner. All applicants will be invited to make a brief presentation of their projects before the Nevada Ad Hoc State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee prior to project selections. Meetings will be held in Reno and Las Vegas on dates to be announced later. Although presentations are optional, sponsors are strongly encouraged to appear before the Committee due to the competition for available funds.

All potential grant sponsors are encouraged to contact the RecTrails Program Manager at the Division of State Parks for advice on how to complete the application before they begin to develop their application.

Grant writing workshops are available upon request. To schedule a workshop, please contact the RecTrails Program Manager.

For more information, please contact:

Nevada Division of State Parks
Attn: RecTrails Program Manager
1300 South Curry Street
Carson City, NV 89703-5202
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E-mail: rectrails@parks.nv.gov
Website: <http://parks.nv.gov/trails.htm>

Nevada's Recreational Trails Program

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE IN FY 2004



Division of State Parks
1300 South Curry Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703-5202

What is the Recreational Trails Program?

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federally funded trails assistance program administered by the Federal Highway Administration at the national level and the Division of State Parks in Nevada. The RTP provides funding for motorized, non-motorized and diversified (shared use) recreational trails projects. Trails funded must be open to the public and use acceptable trail design standards.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). RTP funding represents a portion of the revenue received by the Federal Highway Trust Fund from the federal motor fuel excise tax paid by users of off-road recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles, off-road motorcycles and light trucks, and ATV's.

What amount of funds is available?

In federal FY 2003, Congress appropriated \$620,000 for general trail projects in Nevada. The FY 2004 apportionment has yet to be announced.

Who is eligible to apply?

Private individuals, organizations, special government districts, and city, county, state, and federal governments are eligible to participate in the RTP grants program.

What types of trail projects are eligible?

Motorized, non-motorized, and diversified (shared use) trail projects are eligible for assistance. Projects must include on-the-ground trail development, maintenance or

rehabilitation, or the development of trail-related facilities, such as trailheads, kiosks, interpretive displays, restrooms, trails maps/brochures, etc. Planning is eligible only if part of an on-the-ground trail project.

Since its inception in 1993, the Nevada RTP has funded hiking and equestrian trails, trail brochures, trailheads, interpretive trails, OHV/ATV trails, and urban pedestrian/bicycle paths.

All projects have to be approved by the individual or agency that owns or administers the property on which the trail will be developed. For example, a volunteer group who wishes to build a trail on National Forest land must have approval from the U.S. Forest Service to build the trail. If a trail will encourage trail use on or access to adjacent property (public or private), support must be obtained from that individual or agency.

What kinds of projects are NOT eligible?

RecTrails Program funds cannot be used

- ◆ For property condemnation,
- ◆ To facilitate motorized access on otherwise non-motorized trails, or for
- ◆ Stand-alone planning projects.

How are projects selected for funding?

First, projects are determined to be eligible or ineligible by the RecTrails Program Manager. Second, eligible projects are presented to the Nevada Ad Hoc State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee for scoring. Project scores determine which projects are funded. The Trails Committee is comprised of public land managers and representatives of trail user groups from around the state.

The Trails Committee awards project scores based on scoring criteria published in the State Grants Application Packet. Project sponsors are strongly encouraged to objectively score their own project so they will understand the scoring criteria.

Examples of the scoring criteria are the project's ability to meet an identified need, provide linkages to other trails and recreation areas, and facilitate access to the proposed project by persons with disabilities.

How are projects funded?

Nevada's Recreational Trails Program is an 80/20 matching program. The federal grant share will pay up to 80% of eligible project costs, and the project sponsor shall pay the remaining 20% matching share. For example, a \$50,000 trail project is eligible to receive \$40,000 in federal grant funds. The project sponsor shall provide the remaining \$10,000 matching share.

The RecTrails Program is a **reimbursable** grants program. The project sponsor must first incur the project costs and then submit requests for reimbursements to the Division of State Parks in Carson City for processing. A maximum of four reimbursements may be submitted to the State.

The 20% matching share can be in-kind services, donations, volunteer labor, and cash. Other federal funds may be used toward the matching share. The total federal share may not exceed 95% of the total project cost.